

OFFER OF MEDIATION BETWEEN
THE SUDAN AND CHAD

Students Demonstrate In Khartoum

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KHARTOUM -- Police were forced to use tear gas bombs here on September 17 to disperse student demonstrators trying to attack the Chad embassy.

A strong police guard was posted round the building following reports from Fort Lamy, the Chad capital, of anti-Sudanese demonstrations there.

Meanwhile, on September 19 it was learned in Niamey, that Niger and Ghana had both offered to mediate in the current border dispute between the Sudan and Chad. The Niger offer had come the day before in a message from its President Hamani Diori sent to the President of the Sudanese Constituent Assembly, Mr. Ismail Al-Azhari.

Ministerial sources said in the Niger capital that the offer was being considered, as was one from Ghana's leader, Lieutenant-General Joseph Ankrah, who had expressed his country's concern about the dispute to envoys in Accra.

The Chad Foreign Minister, Dr. Jacques Baroum, said in Fort Lamy on September 21 that it was premature to talk of referring the dispute to the United Nations. In an interview, broadcast before he left for New York, to lead the Chad delegation to the U.N. General Assembly, Dr. Baroum said that the dispute could be dealt with at diplomatic level or by the two governments concerned.

He said it was because his government favoured bilateral or at least very restricted negotiations that they had not put their case to the Organisation of African Unity (O.A.U.) although they understood Sudan had drawn the attention of that organisation to the problem.

"But if Sudan thinks it is time to raise the matter there, we are ready to do so and to bring charges, because we have much more proof than they have", he added.

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COMMENT ON BEN BARKA KIDNAP TRIAL

RABAT -- The Moroccan Government's indifference towards accusations during the current trial in Paris of 12 men, seven of them in absentia, who are alleged to have been involved in the mysterious disappearance of Mehdi Ben Barka, the Moroccan opposition leader, from a Paris street on October 29 last year, made Morocco guilty of those accusations, the Istiqlal Party's daily newspaper Al-Alam, said here on September 21.

In an editorial, the paper said, "It will be impossible afterwards to prove Morocco's innocence even though these accusations are pure lies."

The paper noted that one of the accused had told the court in Paris the day before that there was a French spy network in Morocco and that a high-placed Moroccan civil servant had tried to get bribes from a French oil prospecting company.

"These declarations threaten Morocco's reputation and the government should adopt a firm attitude towards them and publish communiques to deny the allegations or demonstrate the truth", the editorial said.

One of the seven accused, being tried in absentia, is Morocco's Minister of the Interior, Brigadier-General Mohammed Curnir. The trial, which began in the French capital on September 5, is continuing.